

FORTIFICATIONS FOR PENSACOLA.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING,

A REPORT RESPECTING

PLANS AND ESTIMATES OF FORTIFICATIONS

CONTEMPLATED FOR PENSACOLA.

JANUARY 3, 1827.

Read, and laid upon the table.

WASHINGTON :

PRINTED BY GALES & SEATON.

1827.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR

WASHINGTON, D. C.

REPORT

1901

THE SECRETARY OF WAR

WASHINGTON, D. C.

A REPORT

ON THE

PROGRESS OF THE

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DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

December 26, 1826.

SIR : I have the honor to transmit herewith a report from the Chief Engineer, of this date, and beg leave to refer to it as the answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives, dated the 18th instant, calling for information respecting plans and estimates of fortifications contemplated for Pensacola.

I have the honor to be, sir,
very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES BARBOUR.

Hon. JOHN W. TAYLOR,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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ENGINEER DEPARTMENT,

December 26th, 1826.

SIR : In pursuance of your instructions to report to you the information called for by the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 18th instant, directing the Secretary of War to communicate to the House what progress has been made in the projection of the plans and estimates of fortifications for the defence of Pensacola bay and the navy yard and depot established there, when they are expected to be completed, and what has prevented their completion at the time suggested by the report from the Department during the last session, I have the honor to make the following report :

At the last session, two reports on the subject of fortifications for Pensacola, were communicated to the House of Representatives, one of them dated the 22d of December 1825, and the other the 10th of February, 1826.

I do not perceive in either of those reports, any intimation that plans and estimates of fortifications for the defence of the navy yard and depot at Pensacola, would be projected at any early date ; nor any suggestion of the time at which the plans and estimates of any of the fortifications, having reference to the objects stated in the resolution, would be completed.

The resolution of the House, dated the 8th of February last, which the report of the 10th of February last was intended to answer, appeared to indicate a disposition on the part of the House, to have the plans and estimates for one of the fortifications intended for the defence of the entrance into Pensacola bay completed as soon as practicable ; and, in accordance therewith, instructions were immediately given to the Board of Engineers, to project the plans and estimates for the work proposed to be erected on the western extremity of Santa Rosa island.

The Board of Engineers have made considerable progress in the fulfilment of this duty, and it is expected, will complete it in the course of next month.

The fortifications requisite for the defence of Pensacola bay will comprise that above stated, and one at the Barancas to co-operate therewith in the defence of the entrance into the bay, and those that may be required for the defence of the navy yard and depot.

The progress which has been made in the projection of the plans and estimates of the fortifications proposed to be erected on Santa Rosa island has been stated. Before plans and estimates for the other fortifications mentioned can be projected, it will be necessary to examine and make minute surveys of the position selected for the navy yard, and of its connection with the position at the Barancas. The examination and surveys of the connection between the positions al-

luded to, will be necessary to determine whether, and to what extent, it might be practicable, in the location of the works with which it is proposed to occupy those positions, and in the projection of plans for them, to adapt them to the purposes of reciprocating defences with each other, and of co-operating in the fulfilment of the objects of their destination respectively.

The Board of Engineers will be at Pensacola in the course of the ensuing Spring; and should the views of the Government, in pursuance of which the fortifications for the defence of the entrance into the bay and of the navy yard were determined upon, have undergone no change in the mean time, the Board will be required to make the examinations alluded to, and to furnish instructions for making the surveys which the results of those examinations may indicate to be necessary, and which will be executed without delay.

The above remark, from which may be inferred the fact of its being supposed that the views of the Government, in relation to the proposed defences for Pensacola, may possibly be changed, was suggested by information recently received, respecting the result of a survey lately made of the bay of St. Joseph. It is understood the channel leading into that bay has been ascertained to have a depth of 30 feet; and Gould's chart exhibits the bay as being very capacious, and as having the depth of five and six fathoms throughout its whole extent. The best channel of entrance into Pensacola bay has a depth of twenty-one and a half feet.

Respectfully submitted.

ALEX. MACOMB

Maj. Gen. Chief Eng.

The Hon. J. BARBOUR,
Secretary of War.



